

Ministry of Education

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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RMM: 15

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities and Supervisory Officers

FROM: Joan Fullerton
Regional Manager

DATE: October 14, 2009

SUBJECT: **Curriculum Review – Classical and International Languages
Regional Focus Group Session – November 12, 2009**

Year 7 of the Curriculum Review process began this September. As you know, the review process for each discipline includes consultation through stakeholder information sessions and focus groups.

We are currently working in partnership with the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch of the Ministry of Education to offer one-day focus group sessions in November – December 2009 for representatives from school boards and school authorities. The purpose of these sessions is to gather input for the review of the Classical and International Languages, Grades 9 and 10 *and* Classical Studies and International Languages, Grades 11 and 12 curriculum policy documents from teachers, principals and board-level staff. Classical and International Languages, Grades 9 and 10, *and* Classical Studies and International Languages, Grades 11 and 12 will be combined in one focus group session. The Barrie Regional Session will be held on November 12, 2009.

For the Classical and International Languages, Grades 9 and 10 *and* Classical Studies and International Languages, Grades 11 and 12 Focus Group Session, boards are invited to send *eight* (8) representatives with experience in this subject area to the session.

- Three (3) secondary teachers currently teaching International Languages at various levels (Levels 1-4) will be included in this group.
- Three (3) secondary teachers currently teaching Classical Languages (Levels 1-3) and the Classical Studies course will be included in this group.

- Two (2) board representatives – e.g. Consultant/coordinator/principal with expertise in Classical and International Languages.

School authorities are invited to send one (1) representative to the focus group session.

Please list the names of participants on the attached registration chart and return it by email to Bob Stones, Education Officer, at robert.stones@ontario.ca or fax it to 705-725-7635 or 1-800-471-2584, by **October 30, 2009**.

Please note that participants are to be prepared to discuss the strengths of the current curriculum policy documents, to identify potential areas for improvement and to comment on how a specific change may impact on the curriculum. Board representatives may wish to consult with their colleagues prior to the session by asking the following questions:

1. What are the strengths of the curriculum? Why?
2. Are there specific areas that need improvement? If so, what are they?
3. What impact, if any, would a specific proposed change have on the curriculum? For example, what needs to be considered within the grade? Within the discipline? Across other disciplines?

Detailed information regarding the specific date, times and location of the Classical and International Languages, Grades 9 and 10 *and* Classical Studies and International Languages, Grades 11 and 12 Focus Group Session is included below. The Focus Group Registration Chart and the Expense Claim template are attached.

<p style="text-align: center;">Focus Group Session for Classical and International Languages, Grades 9 and 10 <i>and</i> Classical Studies and International Languages, Grades 11 and 12</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, November 12, 2009 8:30 a.m. (<i>Registration and continental breakfast</i>) 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lion's Gate Banquet Centre 386 Blake Street Barrie ON</p>

A map to the Lion's Gate Banquet Centre is attached.

Expense Claim Information

The ministry will reimburse participants for the cost of:

- Travel (at the rate of \$.40 per kilometre)
- Hotel accommodation if necessary (for participants traveling 200 kilometres or more return trip)
- For those requiring accommodation, one supper meal for the night of accommodation (\$20.00/meal). Breakfast and lunch will be provided during the training for all participants.
- Supply teacher coverage, where required to cover classroom teachers, is at the board's per diem rate.

Participants requiring over night accommodation are to book and pay for their own accommodations/meals and then submit all bills to their own board for reimbursement. Each board must then submit a signed, original board invoice and itemized Expense Claim (template attached) along with copies of all receipts. Please forward these forms to Bob Stones, Education Officer, in the Barrie Regional Office as soon as possible or by **Friday, December 11, 2009**.

If you require further information about the session, please contact Bob Stones at robert.stones@ontario.ca or 705-725-7156 or 1-866-632-1602.

We value the input from school boards and school authorities and thank you for your continued support.


Regional Manager

Attachments